

# MEE 487/488: Project Initiation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In order for a student or outside member of the university or state community to propose a project, it is important that the person proposing the project work to ensure the quality of the educational experience. It is often difficult to gauge the challenges and what lessons will accrue from a project. Applied or open ended projects are often the worst or the best prospects for a capstone project. You are encouraged to propose a project, and then discussions on priorities can be developed in discussion with the involved faculty over time. Several issues are non-negotiable however:

- 1) The number one priority is the education of the student not the technical outcome of the project. If this is seen as free engineering then the project is not appropriate. If it is an opportunity to explore new opportunities or to expand opportunities in Maine, it is quite possibly a good fit.
- 2) Under no circumstances is the outcome of the project proprietary to a sponsor. The students work for free (while paying tuition) in order to demonstrate their proficiency in applying their engineering education. It is critical that they be able to share their proficiency with future employers who may even be a competitor of the sponsor.

In addition, projects which make extensive use of proprietary information or projects where the project has a "known solution" are not appropriate. If a solution exist, it is unlikely that if fair market value is assessed that a student project will be cheaper than purchasing the commercial product.

If you think the project fits or would like to discuss the project, please answer the following questions

Describe succinctly what the project is intended to do or what function the device will perform:

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Who is the final customer for this device; if it is a student competition or other intercollegiate event please include the web site of the competition.

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Who will be supervising and evaluating the outcome of the project, this must be someone not affiliated with the University of Maine, but can include project manager or other sponsors of research who may not be immediately involved in the project as a separate entity but as a part of a larger effort.

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What member of the UMaine Mechanical Engineering department will be the primary technical contact point on the project?

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List the at least two classes in the core Mechanical Engineering curriculum for which the material taught in the class is required as background to successfully complete the project. If the project can be completed without having completed three years of mechanical engineering education, please explain why this class is suitable for a capstone project.

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What resources not currently available in the department are needed for the project, give approximate cost and a method for financing the project? Some budget is available from the department but it is limited and prioritized.

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Please list the deliverables for the project at the end of the year. Separately list testing related deliverables if that apply so that the project can be applied for suitability for a possible Lab II project as well. Items such as a report are assumed to be a part of all projects. These are deliverables that are specific to the project, require technical expertise and for which the student group will be primarily responsible

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